

EFFICIENCY OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

JANUARY 30, 1897.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BURTON, of Missouri, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4808.]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4808) to increase the efficiency of the postal service, having had the same under consideration, submit the following report:

That sections 2, 3, and 4 be stricken out, and that the bill as so amended do pass.

There are many violators of the laws governing the postal service who escape prosecution because of the inability of the inspectors of the Post-Office Establishment to procure their arrests. Under the present law the inspectors are not authorized to arrest offenders, but are compelled to procure warrants and the service of United States marshals or their deputies. In many instances it is absolutely necessary that the offenders should be arrested immediately upon discovery, otherwise they make their escape. The bill as recommended confers upon the inspectors the same powers of arrest as are now possessed by United States marshals and their deputies and the sheriffs and their deputies in the several States.

This will enable the inspectors to arrest without warrant upon reasonable suspicion justified by the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, but will not relieve them from liability for arrests made without reasonable care. The efficiency of the postal service will be greatly promoted by the passage of the bill as recommended.